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DOCUMENTS CONCERNING MRS. SAMUEL
THOMAS, 1707-1710.

[In the January issue of this magazine several documents concerning Rev. Samuel Thomas, first missionary to South Carolina from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, were published. These documents show that Mr. Thomas had returned to England about September, 1705, after having completed the three years service for which he had been employed by the Society in July, 1702, that in December, 1705, he was again employed by the Society to return to South Carolina for a term of three years, and that soon after returning to South Carolina Mr. Thomas died. The following documents concerning the widow of Mr. Thomas were copied from the records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts by the late W. Noël Sainsbury, of the British Public Record Office, for Hon. John P. Thomas, Jr., of Columbia, S. C.]

[EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.]

[May 30, 1707, paragraph 21.]

M^r- Edwards moved the Society to consider the case of M^{rs}- Thomas widow to the late M^r- Samuel Thomas one of the Missionaries in South Carolina¹ and a letter from D^r- Woodward upon the same subject was read. Agreed that the Treasurer be empowered to pay to the said M^{rs}- Thomas half a years salary ending at Christmas last notwithstanding there is but four months pay due to the said M^r- Thomas. Agreed that the case of the said M^{rs}- Thomas be farther considered at the next meeting of the Society.

¹See Vol. IV. of this magazine. Also the January number of this volume.

[June 20, 1707, paragraph 7.]

The consideration of the case of M^{rs}- Thomas being re-assumed M^r- Edwards presented a Petition from the said M^{rs}- Thomas w^{ch}- was read. Agreed that the said Petition be referr'd to the Committee and that they report at the next meeting what is fit to be done in this matter and that the Secretary do lay her case likewise before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

[July 18, 1707, paragraph 9.]

The Secretary likewise reported from the Committee that having read the Petition of M^{rs}- Thomas, widow and relict of M^r- Samuel Thomas late missionary in South Carolina to them referred, it was their opinion that the sum of twenty five pounds should be given by the Society to the said M^{rs}- Thomas in consideration of the great worth of the said M^r- Thomas her husband and of his diligence in his ministerial office, and for the encouragement of Missionaries to undertake the service of the Society, Agreed to and ordered that the Secretary do give notice in the next summons to the Members that there will be a sum of money disposed of upon the abovementioned account.

[August 15, 1707, paragraph 3.]

The consideration of Minute 9. of the last General Meeting (about giving a sum of money to M^{rs}- Thomas) being resumed and there being fourteen Members pursuant to the standing orders present. Agreed that the Treasurer do pay to the said M^{rs}- Thomas the sum of twenty five pounds.

[October 15, 1708, paragraph 6.]

The Secretary also reported that the Committee had read several letters from the following persons, viz: from M^r- Robert Stevens dated from Goosecreek in S. Carolina 3.

Feb^{ry}- 1707. together with two others inclosed from M^r- Smith and M^r- Wright to the said M^r- Stevens from D^r- Le Jau dated S^t- James parish in South Carolina 13. March 1707. giving an account of his illness, of the arrival of M^r- Maule and a good character of the said M^r- Maule, M^r- Dun and M^r- Hazel that he had not received above forty pounds from his people in the space of seaventeen months that he had been amongst them and lastly that he had baptized several Quakers &c. Another letter was also read from M^r- Maule dated Charles Town in S. Carolina 28. Nov^r- 1707. giving an Account of his safe arrival in that Country, of the kindness of the Gov^r: to him, of the goodness of the Dissenters to him and of the securing of the Books of the late M^r- Thomas in the hands of M^r- Hazel.

[December 2, 1709, paragraph 5.]

The Secretary reported from the Committee to whom the case of M^{rs}- Muirson was referr'd that having searched the Journal according to Order, and particularly considered the 9th- Minute of the 18th- of July and 3^d- of the 15th- August 1707. relating to M^{rs}- Thomas widow of the late M^r- Thomas one of the Society's Missionaries of South Carolina, they had agreed to report as their opinion that the sum of twenty five pounds (the same as was allowed to the abovementioned M^{rs}- Thomas) be given by the Society to M^{rs}- Muirson, on the consideration of the great worth of the late M^r- Muirson her husband, of his diligence in his ministerial Function, and for the encouragement of Missionaries to undertake the service of the Society, and lastly by reason of the hard circumstances of the said M^{rs}- Muirson who was left with child by her said husband. The said report being considered was agreed to, and the Treasurer ordered to pay the said sum of twenty five pounds to M^{rs}- Muirson or her order.

[April 21, 1710, paragraph 10.]

The Secretary reported from the Committee that they had read a letter from D^r- Le Jau to him the said Secretary, dated S^t- James Goosecreek 10th- February 17⁹/₁₀. owning the receipt of the said Secretary's two letters of the 25th- January 17⁸/₉ and 25. July 1709. and advising that the bundle of Pamphlets he formerly sent are lost in Ireland; that there having been a contest between his Parishioners and the heires of Captain Howes about a piece of the said Gentlemans land, he desires a copy of the Article relating to that matter, from M^r- Samuel Thomas' Journal. Gives an Account of some Festivals and ceremonies among the Indians in imitation of the Jewish; that there are several Apalachi slaves, who are uncertain of their being baptized; therefore asks if he may not baptize them conditionally Hopes after Easter to give a satisfactory account of the spiritual state of his Parish; and recites several matters in his former letters. And lastly gives a great character of Governor Tynte &c. Whereupon they the Committee had agreed to report as their opinion that in relation to the conditional baptising Indians D^r- Le Jau may be referr'd to the rubrick about baptism, and that a Copy of what concerns the above mentioned Land, be extracted from such of the Papers of M^r- Thomas, as are in the Society's hands, and transmitted to the said D^r- Le Jau. Agreed to.

[PETITION OF MRS. SAMUEL THOMAS.²]

M^{rs}- Thomas her Petition to the Society
To the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

The humble Petition of Elizabeth Thomas widow and relict of M^r- Samuel Thomas dec^d: late a Missionary of the said Society.

²See extract from the journal of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts for June 20, 1707, *ante*, p. 96.

Humbly sheweth,

That about December 1705. the Society appointed your Petitioner's husband Missionary to South Carolina and gave him a salary of fifty pounds a year and thirty pounds for transporting himself and family.

That your Petitioner's said husband did put on board all his household and other goods, and your Petitioners friends did moreover raise all the moneys they could (great part of which was vested in goods and put also on board) towards the better support of your Petitioners' husband and family abroad. But the ship lying long before it sailed your Petitioner at that time was found so far gone with child as she could not advisably take so long a voyage, and so your Petitioners husband (with the Goods so on board) in obedience to the Society's commands went the first opportunity to the place assigned without your Petitioner which was an occasion of great sorrow to both and of great loss to ~~your~~ Petitioner and her children who intended to follow.

That your Missionary (your Petitioners' husband) died on his Cure in the service of the Society in October last of a pestilential feaver raging there, caught (as your Pet^r: is informed) by his frequent visitation of the sick, to the great sorrow and grief of your Pet^r: and the insupportable loss of herself and five small children who are left without any support or substance, but the charity of good people.

Wherefore your Petitioner thankfully acknowledges the goodness of the Society in paying her the whole salary of the broken half year in which your Missionary died, and humbly prays the Society to take her poor condition into further consideration.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray &c.